



Honorable Commissioner of Patents
In re Application control number 10/642,570
Applicant Curtis N. Knowles
Attention; Examiner Frankie L. Stinson, Art Unit 1746

This is in response to the Office action dated Nov. 29, 2005

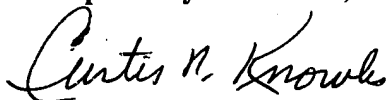
It is respectfully requested that the reconsideration and allowance of this application be given in view of the following remarks. In Applicant's novel tool, the compression means does not compress the roller support means 4 thereby bowing out the roller support means for engagement with the inner surface of the roller cover. This is precisely where Applicant's tool differs from each of the two patents, Engle and Koyama, of record, cited against Applicant's claims 1 and 2. In applicant's tool, the compression means forces the roller support means into frictional engagement with the protuberance means on the shaft thereby forming a sort of friction clutch between the roller shaft and the roller cover. This structure is clearly set forth in Applicant's claims, and is totally lacking in either Engle or Koyama. While each of these patents do show protuberances on the drive shaft and compression means, neither patent shows or teaches the provision of a compression means on the drive shaft located at a position axially spaced from the protrusion means a distance greater than the length of the roller support means as clearly set forth in these claims. This limitation is not necessary or found in the two patents because they do not function as does Applicant's. They rely on the compression means to squeeze the roller support means and expand it radially to grip the cover. Applicant's in effect uses an internal friction clutch to couple the roller cover to the drive shaft. In Applicant's tool, the support means is in effect gripped between the compressing means and the protrusion means for coupling the drive shaft to the roller cover. The means plus function clauses in these claims define structure which is not disclosed or taught by either Koyama or Engle and these limitations in the claim cannot be ignored in defining over these references.

It is not entirely clear how the examiner is applying the Koyama patent. In the rejection it is stated that element 22 is a protuberance and also a compression means. It is not clear how the same element can be spaced apart from itself as would be required to meet the language set forth by applicant's claims.

The rejection of claim 3 as unpatentable over Koyama or Engle in view of Kolb, newly cited, as obvious under 35USC103 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn. This claim is allowable for the same reasons as discussed above.

Since there are no other requirements outstanding, an early allowance and issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Curtis N. Knowles



Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,570

Applicant(s)

KNOWLES

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

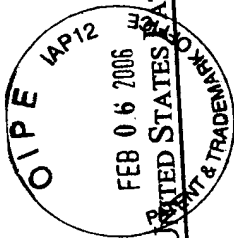
- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,570	08/18/2003	Curtis Nordmark Knowles		4222

7590 11/29/2005

Curtis N. Knowles
15114 Dundee Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1746

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.